

I am opposed to PB 374.

The bill violates the rights of all parents.

Homeschooling is not the issue.

How to meet the mental health needs of children is the issue.

We, as parents, also would like to find solutions to help children with mental health needs. SB374 is not the answer.

Problems with existing bill – Excludes private school children;

- Fails to define “behavioral health assessment”

- Fails to define provider of assessment

- Fails to consider “providers” may be practicing medicine without a license if not qualified to give assessments

- Fails to provide appeals process if assessment not appropriate

- Fails to provide for children’s refusal to participate

- Fails to provide for providers’ refusal to participate

- Fails to consider error rates of assessments

- Fails to consider who may obtain access to the assessments

- Fails to consider liability issues when assessment fails to identify

- Fails to state who will pay for the assessments

The bill is unnecessary when IDEA and state special education laws, already require local boards of education, with parental consent, to identify and assess all children in the community who have serious emotional problems, to provide appropriate services to them, and provides significant due process safeguards to resolve disputes.

Possible solutions – Amend (existing statutes);

- Consolidate (existing agencies/programs);

- Access (simplify and improve parents ability to access treatment and programs)

- Fund (adequately fund programs, treatment, residential placement)

- Prevention (through amendment, consolidation, access, and funding)

- Cure (direct and adequately fund UConn, and other State colleges to study effective cures)

The legislature should not act in haste to adopt a bill that unconstitutionally infringes on parents rights. Instead, the legislature should take time to carefully, and rationally, consider all aspects to develop an efficient and effective Constitutional system that will enable all children to receive appropriate treatment, services, and cures.

Sincerely,

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